The 76th BATTALION News

Vol. 1 SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC May 5, 1943 NO. 2

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRIDGE

Your fine showing on construction work is highly commended. It is hoped that when all the details are squared away, every man will be in the job best suited to his talents. I have never seen men jump into a job and show such good results in over twenty years' experience. The fact that we landed on Friday and started work on Monday, is a record few battalions can match.

Keep up the good work, have a little patience if you are in the wrong spot, keep your barracks and heads clean, and you will come out of this war with a record for being the best battalion on any island. Personally, I would like to see you beat every record ever set.

It is up to me to get the jobs, and up to you to do them. I will welcome suggestions from anyone for the improvement and betterment of the Battalion.

E. R. WINKLER, JR.
Lt. Comdr. (CEC) USNR
OinC 76th Battalion

KNOW YOUR OFFICERS

John Koleszar, Lt.(CEC) USNR, is the executive officer of the 76th Battalion and second in command. He was born April 9, 1910, at Dover, New Jersey, and graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York in 1935 - C.E. Degree.

After graduating from school, Mr. Koleszar was connected with several engineering firms, as well as the Naval Works Department at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, on engineering, constructions, and maintenance projects.

He enlisted in the Seabees in January 1943.

One of the toughest jobs in the Battalion is that of the Executive Officer as his duties are many and very responsible.

1. He must know all about everything transpiring in the command.
2. Approve and disapprove ratings.
3. Arrange for Captain's Mast.
4. Arrange for various inspections.
5. Be responsible for cleanliness of personnel and camp.
6. All detail officers must report to him.

THOUGHTS FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

The subject of church attendance is rather touchy. I would prefer to believe that the men of the 76th know the value of church attendance, but the percentage seen in church seems to say that they do not.

Who am I to try to tell you the value? Of course, I believe in Divine Worship.

The Navy believes in Church or it wouldn't have placed me here, nor would it have demanded that Church Services be held wherever possible on Sundays and that all work except the absolutely necessary cease on Sundays. (See Navy Regulations).

But this in itself is no reason for you to attend.

The Church, insofar as it is a human institution, is riddled with human weaknesses. This you know. Sure there is hypocrisy, sure there is narrow-mindedness, sure there is dullness at times----these things are human.

But the Church stands for the most glorious and the most important things that civilization knows ---yes, the things that we are fighting for.

S T A F F

Sponsoring Editor----------
Roy B. Chamberlin, Lt. (jg)
ChC, USNR
Editor in Chief----------
Harold J. Adolfson, SK1c

Many thanks to Chiefs Nichols and S.W. Evans, also, D.W. Hoggatt S2c, C.Clements SF2c, G.T. Ugland Phole, and I.R. Spahr EM2c, for their contributions.

Thoughts from our Chaplain
(Cont. from preceding page)

Going to church is one little way that we can show our Maker how much we love Him---pay our respects to Him, if you will. Further, it is one avenue for us to find out better how to serve Him. Unless we humans at least try to be God-centered, our lives are like ships headed for a reef.

Give Him a chance to take over the helm.

R. B. Chamberlin
Chaplain, 76th Const.Batt.

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CENSOR HINTS

Just a few words about censoring. Mail will be sent with less delay and the work by the censors lessened if the following rules are observed.

1. If you are enclosing anything of value in an envelope, such as cash, checks, money orders, etc., bring the envelope direct to your Company Commander so that he may register same.
2. Do not use marks such as "xxx", "OOO", "S.W.A.K."
3. Sign your name as you wish, but your full name must appear at the foot of the text.
4. Use the proper return address on the outside of the envelope. Include your company and impress upon your correspondents to do the same.
5. Write only your full name and rank on postcards, but no return address.
6. "Free Mail" cannot be used on a regular air-mail envelope; but should be marked on all "V-Mail".
7. Six cents postage on air mail is adequate for a weight of only one-half ounce.
8. The special postage rate of six cents per half-ounce on air mail (for servicemen only) will not provide plane service to the mainland unless below the stamp you write the words "Sailor's Mail". Without these markings the letter goes by ship to the mainland and then by plane to destination.

CENSOR HINTS (Cont.)

9. You may write that we are on the Island of Oahu, T.H., but do not mention the exact location of our base, the type of work we are doing, nor anything of a military nature.
10. Do not write in Hawaiian if you want your letters to go promptly.
11. Do not post your mail ashore. The mail from all personnel of our battalion must go through our own post office.

Robert M. Babb
Ens. (CEC)-V(S) USNR

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PALMYRA

It is with a great deal of enthusiasm that we print an excerpt from a letter received by one of our cooks, J.D. Phelps, from J.H. Parker, stationed at Palmyra.

"We arrived safely. I am well pleased with this place and it's a fine place to live; one of the prettiest places I've seen too. Sure wish you were with us. You could buy an acre of Texas land each day. I mean it's really for sale too, some big tracts.

Say, they allow us two cans of beer each day, for 10 cents a can!"

Apparently, Palmyra is not as barren as we have heard, as it was our impression that it was one station this side of Hades.

Chief Torre also received a letter from "Sarge" Zalenski, and he corroborates this.

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AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Captain J. S. Dowell and his staff, also the Marines, for the cordial greeting and many favors we have received. We certainly have had true Southern hospitality.

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Congratulations Mr. Williams, on your new commission as W.O. Ph.M. May there be many more.

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Many of the boys are wondering if it is true that we are going to be paid only once a month. Among other things, didn't that Recruiting Officer tell us that the Navy paid twice a month?

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Did you know that there were many fine books in the library in the Chaplain's Office that can be had for the asking?

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AN OFFICER LOOKS AT C.B.'s DAY

The other morning I got up just as soon as the Bugler blew reveille and rushed over to one of the enlisted men's barracks. I wanted to study a real C.B.'s day. The barracks, I walked into, was just any one of the group standing over there. This was perhaps my first mistake. My second mistake was, perhaps, my rushing by the first ten bunks or so, etc., and stopping in front of a nice, full upper. I knew it was full because I could see that the blanket did not touch the mattress on either side, and two dirty feet stuck out from under it at the end of the bed.

Fortunately, I got there before he was wide awake. As a matter of fact, he was very little awake. One eye was open- it was closed; two were opened - both were closed; he made a face; wiggled a finger; moved an arm; wiggled a toe; opened his eye; closed his eyes; made a face; yawned twitched his nose; stretched his arms; rolled over; blew his nose; scratched his feet; rubbed his stomach; picked a pimple off his back; picked his nose; put on his socks; took them off; changed them around so the holes would be in the right place; went to the Head; washed his hands; wet his hair; brushed his teeth, went to the toilet; looked in the mirror, looked up, looked down; looked at each side; squeezed a black head; combed his hair; looked up, looked down; looked at each side. Went to Chow.

He ate three helpings of pancakes, three of eggs, 12 pieces of bacon, 18 slices of toast, 6 cups of coffee (each with six table spoons of sugar and one can of milk), 6 glasses of water and 10 apples. He belched and went to work.

At work, he leaned on his shovel;over it; around it. He sat on it; close to it, over it, near to it; on one side of it; on the other side; at one end, at the other end. He stood it up, laid it down; put it against a tree; put it against a rock. He knocked off fifteen minutes early for lunch. After lunch he went to work through the same strenuous procedure.

That evening, he complained about the chow; about his work; about the heat, the wind; about his bunk, his wife, his gear, his Officers; about the beer, the ice cream, Ship's Store, Ship's company; the moon, the stars; the girls, the natives, the black-out regulations, censorship; box lunches.

At nine thirty, he crawled into bed and went straight to sleep.

(con't from column two)

Here is specialization of labor, but not division to the point of slow-down. For speed, more speed, and ever more speed is one of the secrets of the sucess of the battalions that have gone out to their "Island X's."

The above is a article by "A. D. Rathbone IV, taken from the Magazine Digest, April 1943.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Leisure time varies in proportion to the amount of work we do. For the leisure time that is available we wish to offer as large a variety of constructive as well as recreational activities possible. It has been brought to our attention that many men in this battalion would like to improve their education, either for their own satisfaction and betterment or with the practical view of getting either a High School or a College degree.

Through an arrangement which we are in a position to make with the Armed Forces Institute any course may be made available to any man at the cost of two dollars for each course for credit. If several men wish to take the same course arrangements can be made for classes to speed up the process of the correspondence course. Through this Institute, both High School and College credits may be obtained.

We are listing a group of 11 courses which we believe will be most popular. There is a place reserved on the bulletin board by the mess hall for you to sign your names under the course you desire. If you desire any course listed, sign your name under the list entitled "miscellaneous", indicating beside your name the course you wish to take.

All man wishing High School credits should call upon the chaplain immediately, for such men will have to write to their former High School principals in order to obtain transcripts of their former records, a recommendation as to what courses are needed to complete requirements for degree, and his permission to proceed with study under the A.F.I. The chaplain will give you a form letter which covers the necessary ground. He will also interview you to determine what course or courses you might begin studying, immediately.

The following is a list of eleven courses which we believe will be most in demand.

American History	Trigonometry
English	Physics
Astronomy	Chemistry
Geography	French or Spanish
Algebra	Shorthand
Plane Geometry	

"One vital factor in the success of a Seabee battalion is the ability of the many and varied units of specialists to co-operate with each other. Although each group has its specific work to perform, it is a cardinal Seabee principle that carpenters will serve as welders' helpers, that electricians turn to and assist the concrete crews, that road-builders, draftsmen, mechanics -in fact, any member or group will work as helpers at a trade other than their own. (con't column one)

A WORD FROM THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT TO THE PERSONNEL OF THE 76TH BATTALION
by Lt. Comdr A. C. Barber, M.C. V(S) USNR

It begins to look, as of this date and hour of writing, that our battalion is finally going to get a Dispensary, Medical Office, and Sick Bay. After many trials and tribulations, the proper type of huts were finally secured. Up to now, the department has only been makeshift with small temporary space. But now, thanks to the Supply Department and the men under Chief Lewis, who have done such a swell job, the dream has come true.

Plans at this time call for a complete Sick Bay, with sixteen beds and room for more, if ever necessary; Duty office in the Sick Bay, dispensary fully equipped, Medical Office and Corpsman's quarters.

A definite sick call schedule will be arranged that will permit all to receive attention without interfering with duty or liberties.

Attention is called to the relative danger from long intervals of exposure to the sun's rays. Sun burn can be serious. In this particular part of the world, the sun's rays are, as some have found out, very powerful in reaction to burning of the skin. Even as short an interval as ten minutes exposure, has caused severe burn and blistering. It is one of those things to avoid, rather than to be thoughtless enough to over-expose the skin to severe burn. It is suggested that shirts be left on at work and when on the beach, take care to prevent sun burn.

In this connection, it is pertinent to deal with "Heat Stroke" or "Heat Exhaustion", (over heated as it is sometimes called) and the use of the salt tablets that are in the containers by the drinking fountains and which the Corpsmen on duty at the jobs has in his equipment. This condition, in short, is the result of loss of fluid in the body; the lack of replacement of same, and the resulting natural elevation of temperature of the body, or "fever". The taking of salt tablets tends to hold the vital necessary fluid in the body, and to avoid this condition. In this climate to safeguard the health of all workers, it is suggested that two or three tablets be taken per day. They are best taken with a swallow of water in mid-morning and afternoon. The amount of salt taken at meals does not ordinarily suffice, nor can be relied upon to be sufficient.

~~The Medical~~ This Department expects complaints of skin irritations. Working conditions may at times be dusty. Dust and dirt rubbed into the skin from friction of clothing, will cause uncomfortable skin infections, especially about the neck, arms, and groin. Proper hygienic measures, daily bathing habits, (plenty of soap) and early care will go a long way to prevent and to cure these conditions.

The Medical Department wishes to take this medium to reach all the personnel in the battalion on another vital subject. It is the question of going on "LIBERTY", and of those men who will make "contacts". It is commonly thought that the men of the 76th, are a bit older, have "better sense", and are a little higher in the scale. The word of caution is this: Severe injury to health often results from diseases contracted by such "contacts" and severe penalties result from failure to take prophylactic measures and to report to the Medical Department. You should only receive medication from your medical department. Self medication or any other is not sufficient. All cases of contact must be reported and properly recorded, which in turn are reported to the Battalion Office. Any case not reported that subsequently develops disease, is subject to severe penalty, and is recorded on the man's Health Record. It is, in any event, better not to take a chance on physical and mental disease and remain healthy, than to slip, or try and be smart. Good clean fun, hard work, and occupation is the answer. Idleness always seems to lead to trouble.

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HELP * HELP

This is your newspaper and its success will depend on all of us. There will be erected, shortly, a box near the Recreation Hall to receive articles. If you have any choice news, gossip or articles, just drop it in the box and see your name in print.

BATTALION GOSSIP

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Each and everyone wish smooth sailing and happy landings to the other part of our battalion, a swell bunch of fellows, who are doing their bit out on Palmyra Island.

HUMOROUS HAPPENINGS

The laundry department, under the superb direction of CEM Nichols and ably assisted by Byron "OLE" Olson, S1c, is rapidly ???? taking form. After several short circuits and minor explosions the snow white wash was on the line and promptly on the ground. Sick Bay reports "OLE" improving as well as can be expected...NOTE: Ole's condition will be printed from time to time as relapses are a certainty.

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Three cheers to our cooks and bakers for those hot cakes and eggs, fried to order. Keep up the good work, its really making a hit with the boys.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

To those who are yet modest and wish to make social connections in Honolulu, we are fortunate in having among us, THE GREAT COMBINATION, Namely: Arthur Benson, SK2c and Frank Finn, SK3c. No problem is too dificult for these great men. So make your appointments early. The Warehouse Wizards, or the Combination -- as you see fit, are available by appointment -- "by appointment".

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Ensign Babb, Hdqr. C. O., is a former Sunday School teacher.

Richard Klaerner, CCS, was before entering the service, manager of 35 hotels and that Albert Luevano, OS1c, was Ass't. Manager of one of this group. These old friends met at Camp Allen for their boot training, not knowing that the other was entering the service.

CSF, R. J. "Romeo" Bernhardt and CCM, W. P. Evans, Hdqr. Adj., are school chums from grade school and are yet inseparable.

CY, E. R. Torre, one of the gay young blades of our battalion, has two beautiful daughters, ages 16 and 18 years, NUF SED. He also plays bridge, but how.

THINGS WE LIKE TO SEE; Poop Deck Pappy DuBose being made a chief. "Pop" is about the best liked man in our entire battalion. Good luck "Pop".

Congrats Smitty, on your recent appointment. Keep pitchin.

A tip to some of you married men. Our star photographer Ugland was caught buying a beautiful purse in Honolulu and sending it to his wife.

If this should reach the eyes of Chief Maynes and SKs Parker and O'Connor at Palmyra, the entire gang in the Supply and Disbursing Offices wish to say, "Hello and Good Luck".

After having had several pictures made with the Hula girls in Honolulu, R. J. Martin of B-5 remarked that he was not going to send them home, as he is afraid his Pappy-in-law would get hold of them.

L. A. Daugherty, landed here and suddenly discovered he had a long lost sister in Honolulu, with whom he hopes to spend the week-end soon.

C. W. Johnson is a first class barber and will gladly cut anyone's hair in the battalion. He was an onion pealer in civilian life. In case of doubt, ask "Pick" Morse or E. Krawsczyk.

H. A. Beaver has safely recovered from the mumps, but Corpsman C.L. Craig, his attendant, has puffed jaws and is in bed.

The Board of Censors may have a holiday, as most of the boys are threatening divorce. They want some mail.

We wonder how the barber makes his chair revolve.

How Chief Kearney looks as a copper in civilian life.

Who has been waking us up in the morning.

How the people back in the eighteen hundreds repaired shoes.

Where to find Chief Nichols.

KNOW YOUR CHIEFS

Aldrich, Alton Delbert - CSF(AA) HQ - - Alias "NIP", "BOILER BOY", "PLUMBERS FRIEND" - - In his Irish way, he really gets the work done.

Alexander, Jack E. - CCM(AA) B-3 - - "Alec", Excavating Supt. on warehouse projects. Alex will tell you about "Nip" and vice versa-- another Irishman.

Angus, John S. - CMM(AA) C-1 - - Adjutant of Co. C., just heard his wife had joined the WAAC's. What a man, Angus! When he leaves 'em, they go "Waacy." Congrats on a patriotic team.

Arrington, Thomas B. - CCM(AA) B-5 - - Construction Foreman - Up in the hills at present, building warehouses or something.

Burnett, George L. - CMM(AA) B-1 - - Labor pusher on warehouse project.

Bernhardt, Raymond J. - CSF(AA) - - "Heart-burn", Pencil pusher - Draftsman to you. Want a love letter written, see Mr. Heart-burn-- He slays 'em.

Clausen, Henry B. - CSF(AA) - - Adjutant of Co. B. A good man to have around, and between you and me, he gets around.

DuBose, Horace P. - CEM(AA) - - "Pappy" - Maintenance details. There isn't a harder worker in camp.

Evans, Stuart W. - CSp(Ath) - - "Muscles" to you. Recreation man - Wanna fight see Muscles.

Evans, William P. - CCM(AA) - - "Bill" - Another pencil pusher - Adjutant of HQ Co. Oh, yea!! After seeing Texas, we'll take Virginia.

Fitch, James A. - CCM(AA) - - Excavating Superintendent Warehouse project - Better known as one punch Fitch - Pappy of the 76th.

Gaschke, Ranny G. - CMM(AA) - - Labor pusher - New arrival - Congrats.

Gorbig, George A. CCM(AA) - "SKIPPY" - Pongo Pongo or is it Pago Pago. What is this we hear about you're leaving us?

Hogan, Donald A. - CSM(AA) - - The little man who comes around once a month.

Hood, John R. - CEM(AA) - - Electrical maintenance. "Power" to you. May your troubles be all "light".

Hopkins, Robert B. - CCM(AA) - - "Hop" Censor. If you see him blushing, its because he has been reading your mail.

Johnson, "J" "B" Hamilton - CBM(AA) - - "JB" or "Fats". Battalion Adjutant. No, he doesn't walk that fast, there's a bicycle underneath him.

Kenna, Charles H. - CBM(AA) - - Censored! Where's my bicycle.

Klaerner, Richard A. - CCS(AA) - - "Rich", Oh! the cost per man went up again. He has done a good job feeding us and anyone wishing to exchange jobs--think hard. Could you arrange one menu to please the tastes of 584 men.

Ogle, Raymond R. - CMM(AA) - - Transportation--You can't get a "peep" out of him.

Nichols, James B. - CEM(AA) - - Ship Service, Laundry, Cobbler Shop, Barber Shop, Tailor Shop, Band, Newspaper, Recreation Program, and OOD during his spart time. Looking for an answer to the question, "When will the laundry be ready?"

Those chiefs, whose names do not appear in this issue, don't feel slighted, as you will have your inning in the next issue.

HAWAII

The territory of Hawaii consists of eight major islands, namely: Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Niihau, and Kahoolawe; also seven outlying islands, which are sparsely populated. The population of the entire territory, (1940 census) is 423,232. The island of Oahu has the largest population, 257,698; Hawaii being second, with 73,276.

Historians are unable to agree on the origin of the Hawaiian or Polynesian race, but the most popular belief is that they were a race driven or migrated from south-eastern Asia.

The islands were first discovered by the white race in 1778, by Capt. James Cook, English explorer, who first named them the Sandwich Islands. They were then governed by Kamehameha the Great and his wife Kaahumanu. History first dates back to 1758, the year of the birth of Kamehameha. Captain Cook and his crew were greeted enthusiastically upon their arrival, but a short time after, friqtion and fights occurred and Captain Cook was killed in battle in 1778. The next explorer to reach the island, was Captain Vancouver, English Navigator, who did very good work in trying to unite the islands under one command, as the population was decreasing, due to warfare between the natives of the various islands. Kamehameha achieved control of the islands through assistance given by Captain Vancouver, in the way of guns, ammunition, and advice.

The islands were under British control, or had their own independence, until July 7, 1898, when they were annexed to the U. S. The building of the U. S. Naval Station was started in 1900, and approximately $50,000,000.00 has been spent on the harbor. This base, known as Pearl Harbor, is headquarters for the 14th. U.S. Naval District.

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GAMBLING

We are not going to lecture on gambling, but we would like to make a few comments. There are going to be a number of men in the battalion who will be broke for the entire enlistment, because they choose to gamble their entire earnings, and because they do not know how to gamble. Not only will you be broke, but you will make yourself distasteful to your friends, trying to borrow. There are men in the battalion who know how to gamble, learned through years of experience; also they have the funds to gamble, which has been obtained from previous gambling encounters. Our advice is, if you must gamble, set aside 10% or 15% of your monthly earnings for gambling and if you hit OK, and if you are not lucky, then you will still have enough cash left to buy those necessities you require, and enjoy a liberty or two.

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The following was given to us, unsolicited, by one of the civilian workers:

A paper was born on the Pacific Ocean,
Just where, we have no notion.
It told all about Battalion 76,
That unit of working Seebees;
As fine a bunch of fellows
One will ever see.
To the officers and all men in
The ranks.
We civilian workers salute you
And extend our hearty thanks.
May your nameless paper prosper,
Your trip to X successfull be,
And when you reach the Japs in
Tokio,
Give them a slap for me.
This by one of the civvies
Who knows just where he is bound,
But as you seek this Island of X,
May our Saviour with you be found.

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

A virgin forest is a forest in which the hand of man has never set foot.

Maneuver is what they put on grass. We have maneuver on our lawn.

The winter of 1620 was a hard one for the settlers. Many people died, many babies were born. Captain John Smith was responsible for all this.

Columbus was a great navigator, who cursed about the Atlantic.

How many wars were waged against Spain?
Six.
Enumerate them.
One, Two, three, four, five, six.

Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
At the bottom.

S P O R T S

BY CHIEF EVANS and BM 2/c SPAHR

"ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAKES JACK A DULL BOY"

It is sincerely hoped that all the men in this battalion will find some form of recreation or hobby that he is truly interested in. "Being able to do the thing you like to do better than anything else during your leisure time" may well define recreation.

An opportunity is being made to provide a wide range of activities, and build facilities for carrying on the activities so that the men may pick their favorite form of recreation. It should be possible for us to have an activity that will interest everybody, and if you have a hobby, sport, or some particular game that you like, come in and lets talk it over to see if we can include it in our program.

The recreation program is yours, its for your enjoyment and relaxation. We all know that recreation is essential to maintain a healthy, happy and contented body.

Lets all come out fellows and take part in your recreational program, whether it be vigorous sports like baseball, volley-ball, boxing, etc., or some other mild form of recreation.

PING-PONG TOURNAMENT

A ping-pong tournament will be held in the Recreation Hall, Friday, May 7th. A small entrance fee of 10¢ will be charged each participant, to cover the cost of the GRAND PRIZE.

The thoughtful and practical first prize, is worth fighting for boys and certainly ten cents is not going to keep you out of the tournament. Sign up right now at the Recreation Hall.

HORSE SHOE TOURNAMENT

The ol' donkey shoe slingers are serenading the pegs with melodious ringers these days in an "all battalion" horse shoe pitchin contest, to determine the "champeen". Herb (Brayin) Brandstedder, the dark horse of the tournament, is burning up the courts and will probably run off with the title. FIRST PRIZE: The Athletic Council's untiring efforts have secured permission from local Marine Authorities to escort the champion thru their stables. SECOND PRIZE: We will leave to the reader's imagination.

BASEBALL

The short time the 76th Battalion has been located on the islands, the Athletic Dept. has organized teams representing each company for outside competitions. The teams at present are taking on local marine talent to get in shape for league tilts in Pearl Harbor. Chief Evans, our Athletic Director, has scheduled games in the Harbor City and, at a later date, will schedule games in Honolulu.

A battalion team will be picked from the company teams to represent the 76th in Pearl Harbor. The League Play will be over soon, and the selections for the all star team will start immediately thereafter.

Turn on the flash you company teams and land some berths on the Battalion All Star Club.